



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Storm Water Policy

February 27, 2006

Number 06-09

Tahoe Detention Basin – Groundwater impacts minimal – The Cattleman's detention basin in South Lake Tahoe was designed to remove sediment and nutrient loads from surface runoff into nearby Cold Creek, whose waters eventually enter Lake Tahoe. The basin receives runoff from residential areas and a major roadway. It can hold 22,000 ft³ of water without surface discharge. Excess runoff overflows to an adjacent meadow. The U.S. Geological Survey and the El Dorado County Department of Transportation completed a study to determine if nutrients infiltrated from the detention basin were transported through ground water to Cold Creek. The study concluded, "The chemical composition of ground water for two years after completion of the detention basin did not change from the chemical composition of ground water before completion of the detention basin." http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2005/5260/PDF/SIR2005_5260.pdf

Air Pollutants to Water Pollutants – SWRCB & ARB discuss cross-media issues – In a meeting described as "historic," the Air Resources Board and the State Water Resources Control Board conducted a joint workshop to discuss the exchange of pollutants between air and water. In general, aerial deposition of contaminants results in water pollution by direct deposition onto waterways or indirectly via storm water runoff. However, some pollutants go the other way: the amount of mercury volatilizing from San Francisco Bay is estimated to about equal the inputs from direct deposition and urban runoff.

In its testimony, Caltrans suggested that car emissions testing be expanded to include not only traditional air pollutants but also airborne debris from brake wear, tires, and other automotive sources that may affect water as well as air quality. More joint meetings are expected in addition to staff-level contacts. Priorities include: 1) Identifying an inventory of the original sources of various pollutants and 2) Developing an action plan to deal with those pollutants at the source. SWRCB press release: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/press/docs/2006/06_004.pdf

Integrated Water Resource Planning – Bay Area IRWMP holds meeting - The first of four meetings leading to adoption of the *Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* (IRWMP) will be held today in San Francisco. This plan is a multi-stakeholder, nine-county effort to coordinate water resource management in four functional areas: 1) water supply and water quality; 2) flood protection and stormwater management; 3) waste-water and recycled water; and 4) watershed management, and habitat protection and restoration.

Funding for development of the Bay Area IRWMP comes from Proposition 50. \$380 million has been set aside statewide for all IRWMP-related grants including implementation. More info on the Bay Area IRWMP <http://www.bayareairwmp.net/> Other IRWMPs are underway in the state but may or may not address storm water. Statewide info: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/>

Upcoming – CASQA meeting - March 10, 9:00 to 3:00, Ontario; *topic*: implementing TMDLs in California; \$50 payable at the door or online, includes lunch; <http://www.casqa.org/>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>